Effect of Convergence Bill on Journalists

3885. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed Convergence Bill is likely to affect journalists both accredited and non-accredited; and

(b) whether Government have received any memorandum or other response from journalistic bodies over this issue ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) In pursuance of the New Telecom Policy-99, it is proposed to prepare a new comprehensive statute to replace the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 keeping in view the rapid convergence of telecom, computers, television and electronics. The matter formed a specific term of reference of the Group on Telecom and IT Convergence set up under the chairmanship of Finance Minister. The Group has now submitted its Report along with the suggested legislation which is presently under consideration of the Government.

(b) No, Sir.

TAC in Kerala

3886. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Telephone Advisory Committees in Kerala; and

(b) the names of the members of each TAC and the category under which each of them are nominated ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) There are twelve Telephone Advisory Committees in Kerala.

(b) The detailed information is at Annexure *(See* Appendix 193, Annexure No. 21).

Concessional Tariff Rates on STD/ISD Calling Cards in Bangalore

3887. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bangalore Telephones has introduced STD/ISD calling cards in Bangalore;